Sentences in Motion

Notice how sentence structure shapes a scene.

8.5.W.1 "Students will compose simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to add clarity and variety in their writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence of each type in the passage and write S for simple, CP for compound, CX for complex, or CC for compound-complex beside it. Look for changes in structure as the scene unfolds.

The Bicycle Repair Station

1. On Saturday morning, our school courtyard became a bicycle repair station. Neighbors rolled in bikes, and volunteers set out tools on folding tables. Because a loose chain can slip off a gear, Maya checked each chain before a rider left. She wiped one rusty chain with a rag. The wrench clinked against the pavement, but nobody stopped working. When the first rider tested his bike, the chain stayed in place, and Maya gave him a thumbs-up.

2. At the next table, Leo examined a tire with a tiny puncture. He found the hole, and he marked it with chalk. After Leo removed the tube, he rubbed the area with sandpaper. The rough surface helped the patch stick. While the glue dried, two students pumped other tires, and a parent explained how to check tire pressure. Leo pressed the patch firmly over the hole. Air hissed from the pump, but the repaired tube held its shape when Leo tested it in a bucket of water.

3. By noon, a small line stretched past the gate. Some bikes needed only air, and others needed careful adjustments. Although the volunteers were tired, they kept working until the last rider had a safe bike. One child rang her bell twice. The sound carried across the courtyard, and several people turned to wave. Before everyone packed up, Maya counted the repaired bikes, and Leo stacked the tools in a plastic crate. Twenty-three bikes were ready to ride home, so the volunteers taped a thank-you note to the gate.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why is “She wiped one rusty chain with a rag” a simple sentence?

2. In the paragraph 1 sentence beginning “Neighbors rolled in bikes,” identify the two independent clauses.

3. In the paragraph 2 sentence beginning “After Leo removed the tube,” which clause tells when Leo rubbed the area with sandpaper?

4. In the paragraph 3 sentence beginning “Before everyone packed up,” identify the dependent clause and the two independent clauses.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence scene about a different community event. Include one simple, one compound, one complex, and one compound-complex sentence, and label each S, CP, CX, or CC.

ANSWER KEY

Sentences in Motion

GRADE 8 · 8.5.W.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence of each type in the passage and write S for simple, CP for compound, CX for complex, or CC for compound-complex beside it. Look for changes in structure as the scene unfolds. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is "She wiped one rusty chain with a rag" a simple sentence?	**It has one independent clause and no dependent clause.**
2	In the paragraph 1 sentence beginning "Neighbors rolled in bikes," identify the two independent clauses.	**"Neighbors rolled in bikes" and "volunteers set out tools on folding tables."**
3	In the paragraph 2 sentence beginning "After Leo removed the tube," which clause tells when Leo rubbed the area with sandpaper?	**"After Leo removed the tube" is the dependent clause that tells when.**
4	In the paragraph 3 sentence beginning "Before everyone packed up," identify the dependent clause and the two independent clauses.	**Dependent: "Before everyone packed up." Independent: "Maya counted the repaired bikes" and "Leo stacked the tools in a plastic crate."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

S: Volunteers carried shovels to the park. CP: Nia dug a hole, and Amir carried a young tree. CX: Because the soil was dry, the group poured water into the hole. CC: When the tree stood straight, Amir packed soil around its roots, and Nia tied a tag to a branch.

For Part 1, accept any correctly labeled example of each sentence type. For Part 3, check that the four labeled sentences form a clear scene and have the required clause structures.